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PREDICTORS OF GANG AFFILIATION AMONG ADOLESCENTS:
IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS

A Project
Presented to the
Faculty of
California State University,
San Bernardino

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Social Work

by
Caroline George McLoughlin

June 2016

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to determine what current Master of Social Worker Students in their advanced year know about adolescent gang affiliation, including statistics, predictive factors, and possible interventions. Adolescent gang involvement is a very serious issue that historically has had very problematic effects on society, as well as serious and troublesome effects on the life course of the individual. Despite the knowledge that has been gained in recent years regarding predictive factors of adolescent gang involvement, many intervention programs designed to address this issue are still rarely effective. Despite the fact that there are conflicting findings in the research on adolescent gang affiliation there is also much research that has claimed many similar predictive and preventive factors, such as relationships with family and school. This study will show if current social worker students are aware of the more common factors that lead to adolescent gang affiliation. This will help determine if social work students are just getting a little bit of education on juvenile delinquency and deviance or an abundance of education on the subject matter. The specific population that was surveyed was the Master of Social Work advanced year students at California State University, San Bernardino. Although there were few statistically significant findings in the study, the students for the most part had positive attitudes and perceptions regarding those involved with gang affiliation. The participants for the most part also agreed with factual statements regarding actual predictive factors of gang affiliation. The participants

also overwhelmingly all agreed on a more rehabilitative approach when working with youth involved in gang affiliation as opposed to punitive approaches.

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DEDICATION

“Here is what we seek: a compassion that can stand in awe at what the poor have to carry rather than stand in judgment at how they carry it.” Fr. Greg Boyle

This project is dedicated to adolescents who are often so negatively labeled and judged before they have had the time or opportunity to become or show who they are destined to be.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Problem Statement

Adolescent gang involvement is a very serious issue that historically has had very problematic effects on society, as well as serious and troublesome effects on the life course of the individual, as well as their family and community. In most cases, gang involvement usually begins in adolescence, which is already a crucial time in the developmental process (Dishion, Nelson, & Yasui, 2005). It can be argued that the socialization that occurs in peer groups can have a very powerful environmental effect on adolescents and their development. A young youth's habit of spending time with peers who engage in deviant behaviors is the strongest correlate of delinquency and other forms of deviance (Dishion, Nelson, & Yasui, 2005). Despite the knowledge that has been gained in recent years regarding predictive factors of adolescent gang involvement, many intervention programs designed to address this issue are still rarely effective.

Although there has been an increased awareness of the presence of gangs in academia and popular media, the prevalence of gangs and adolescent gangs remains relatively unknown. However, based on law enforcement reports, there were an estimated 28,100 gangs and 731,000 gang members throughout 3,500 jurisdictions in the United States (Barlow, 1995). The 2004 National Youth Gang Survey, a survey of police departments across the country, reported that

there were active youth gangs in about 80 percent of cities with a population of 500,000 or more (Walker & Katz, 2008). This growth in numbers among adolescents is stated to also be closely connected to the rising rates of violent crime among adolescents, especially among minority males (Esbensen, Winfree, He, & Taylor, 2001).

Adolescent gang involvement generally occurs in males but can also be a problematic issue for females. Unfortunately, individuals who end up involved with gangs usually have some related predisposition, which makes their chances extremely likely of developing an affiliation or relationship with individuals involved in gangs. Adolescents who are involved in gangs also have a high rate of being involved with violence. The disproportionate involvement in delinquency and violence by active gang members is considered to be “one of the most robust and consistent observations in criminological research” (Melde & Esbensen, 2011, p. 514).

Adolescents who have gang affiliation compared to adolescents without gang affiliation also have disproportionately higher rates in serious offenses, such as severe and violent crimes. During gang membership adolescents also have higher rates of offending than they do before or after gang involvement. Gang membership also affects delinquency beyond just peer delinquency (Melde & Esbensen, 2011). It has been observed that gang affiliation is seen as part of a developmental trajectory in which children with a history of antisocial behavior

form peer groups that are organized in deviant behaviors (Dishion, Nelson, & Yasui, 2005).

Research also clearly shows that joining a gang is a critical life course transition that can facilitate or enhance participation in violence (Bellair & McNulty, 2009). Gangs are conflict groups and their members make sure to fight to protect what is theirs, and fighting is status oriented which may involve members from the same gang more so than status oriented to competing gangs. (Bellair & McNulty, 2009). Gang affiliation can be considered to define someone's status within a group of peers or community. Gang member's social support system consists and relies on support of other gang members. Members receive continued social reinforcement of norms that support gang and drug involvement (Bellair & McNulty, 2009). It has also been found that gang membership is also a short-term period for an individual and it usually lasts about two to three years (Brown, Hippensteele, & Lawrence, 2014).

Gang culture is an important factor when attempting to understand prevalence and the dominant effects that superior gang members have on vulnerable potential gang members, generally young adolescents. Status and respect by an individual are attained by showing courage and by being readily available and willing to use violence when it is understood to be necessary to protect oneself and they community from internal or external threats.

(Bellair & McNulty, 2009). It is also known that individuals who make up gang membership are more likely males, individuals from ethnic minority groups, and

adolescents from lower socioeconomic status (Brown et al., 2014). Investment in gangs is reinforced through both implicit and explicit expectations for a certain level of commitment and loyalty to the group (Melde & Esbensen, 2011).

The prevalence of gang rates, especially among youth affects much of society, including politicians, social service agencies, school personnel, law enforcement and especially family members and communities of gang members. Gang involvement threatens the health and safety of economically disadvantage adolescents; where gang involvement and culture is high (Ryan, Miller-Loessi, & Nieri, 2007). Gang involvement is a negative cycle that will continue to effect adolescents as long as they are subject to certain living situations that promote gang involvement as a positive lifestyle or as the only option for a lifestyle for survival.

There has been a great deal of research that shows within the last twenty years that family relations and relationships between adolescents and significant adults in the education environment are persistently identified as critical variables in predicting both healthy and problematic outcomes in adolescents (Ryan et al., 2007). It has been observed that many family variables have been found to defend against adolescents engaging in substance use, gang activity, and or other deviant behaviors. One of the factors was strong support and encouragement by the parent (Ryan et al., 2007). It has also been studied that communication with parents may also be a critical factor as a protective factor against unhealthy outcomes for adolescents (Ryan et al., 2007).

It is important to understand that this problem of adolescent gang affiliation to better identify predictive factors, as well as the preventative and intervening measures that could help decrease the prevalence of adolescent gang involvement. Since gang culture and involvement is heavily connected to other wrongful and devious activities such as violence and substance abuse it is important that this matter be addressed (Bellair & McNulty, 2009). It is helpful to understand this problem further so that society can begin to implement and carry out proven methods and measures that deter gang affiliation and culture amongst adolescents.

In general, findings regarding preventative measures and predictive factors of gang affiliation and culture might change social work practice by forcing different measures to target known vulnerable adolescents of gang involvement. From the research, we know that it is important to be able to understand the trauma from exposure of family violence and community violence that put adolescents at risk behaviorally, emotionally, and academically. Addressing the adolescent's exposure to violence through gang involvement is associated with negative mental health outcomes will better help social workers to address problems when working with youth and adolescents who are at risk for gang involvement (Koffman, et al., 2009). There are many limitations directing specific interventions to adolescents who engage in gang relations because the general literature on gangs often fails to highlight the life-course development, thereby limiting the understanding of both the predictive factors and the consequences of

membership (Melde & Esbensen, 2011). This leads to a lack of agreement and understanding on what interventions should be since there is no real consensus.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to determine what current Master of Social Worker Students in their advanced year know about adolescent gang affiliation, including statistics, predictive factors, and possible interventions. Surveying social workers on these factors will help determine if social work students have a knowledgeable understanding of the problem at hand dealing with adolescent gang affiliation. This survey will also aim to measure their feelings and attitudes regarding gang affiliation among adolescents. Since there are already conflicting findings among researchers regarding the preventative factors, then chances are high that there are different understandings amongst social workers whom haven't even researched adolescent gang involvement. This study will help determine the level of education that social workers are receiving on gang culture and rates.

Despite the fact that there are conflicting findings in the research on adolescent gang affiliation there is also much research that has claimed many similar predictive and preventive factors, such as relationships with family and school. This study will show if current social workers are aware of the more common factors of adolescent gang involvement and what might seem like obvious predictive factors. This will help determine the amount of education that

social work students are receiving about juvenile delinquency and deviance. The specific population to be surveyed will be Master of Social Work advanced year students at California State University, San Bernardino.

This study uses quantitative data drawn from survey distributed to the Master of Social Work students via their email from Cal State San Bernardino. Participation in the study was optional as well as anonymous. This survey is comprised of thirty-five questions that aim to determine the education and knowledge that current social work students have and have received regarding gang affiliation. The reason for utilizing a quantitative research method is to be able to reach a larger sample size to have a better representation of the student's education at San Bernardino. This research method employed will best be determined by a survey than through qualitative interviews with the students. Qualitative interviewing would be too limiting with not enough respondents to be able to get a well-represented sample of social work graduate students.

Significance of the Project for Social Work Practice

The proposed study is needed to assess for social workers level of understanding of adolescent gang culture. This is extremely necessary because although there have been several attempts at prevention, intervention, and suppression programs that have been introduced to address problems associated with youth gangs, relatively few have been promising, let alone effective. There also doesn't appear to be many programs and policies that

assess and address the needs of adolescents who are already submerged in gang culture and affiliation. Gang-involved youth are disproportionately involved in criminal behavior, especially violence, so this is a very pressured and serious problem that needs to be addressed with more effective preventions, interventions and rehabilitations.

There are a few evidenced based preventative programs to deter adolescents from gang affiliation and delinquency, such as the G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training) program. The G.R.E.A.T. program has been around since 1991 and aims to educate adolescents on how to avoid gang membership, to prevent violence and criminal activity, and to assist youth in developing positive relationships with law enforcement. This thirteen-week course focuses on teaching students about crime, cultural diversity, conflict resolution skills, meeting basic needs, responsibility and gang setting (Esbensen, Osgood, Peterson, Taylor, & Carson, 2013). This course is also taught by uniformed law-enforcement. With topics as sensitive as those listed it might be more effective to have highly trained professionals, such as professionals who have their masters in social work teach and or assist the law enforcement individuals who are teaching this course.

Professionals who have gone through a masters in social work program are highly trained individuals on dealing with cultural diversity, problem solving, conflict resolution, policy planning and program evaluation, as well as having effective therapeutic skills. These essential skills make social workers the prime

candidates to be leading prevention and intervention programs for at risk youth of gang involvement. This study will utilize the assessing phase of the generalist intervention process by determining the extent to which MSW students are aware of predictive factors of adolescent gang involvement. The hypothesis is that the formal education for MSW students does not do an effective and sufficient job in teaching about gang intervention and culture as it does about other topics, such as substance abuse, child welfare, and mental health, as well as proving that even without the extensive training social workers have the skills to best handle programs designed to prevent adolescents from gang involvement.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Gaps in the Literature

There is a great deal to be studied and learned about the predictive factors that lead to gang involvement and the possible interventions that could be taken to address this issue. This is a densely researched topic where much of the research focuses on the risk factors that occur with adolescents, such as: substance abuse, criminal activity, and relationships with family members and parents. There is also a great deal of research on whether specific types of relationships with adults, such as parents and school personnel protect adolescents from substance abuse, gang involvement, and other threats to physical safety. A bulk of the research also focuses on the individual, family, peer, school, and community that may affect the adolescent (Esebensen, Peterson, Taylor, & Freng, 2009).

According to the literature, there is not much that has been studied regarding the effects of preventive and intervening methods that are currently utilized by schools, juvenile detention centers and agencies dealing with at risk youth and if the current interventions are successful. There is also a gap in the research that focuses on the gender differences among predictive factors of adolescent gang membership. It is known that gang involvement is more prevalent among males but it is also known that that it still occurs heavily in

females and there is little research on the predictive factors that are specific for females and how they might be different than for males. Most of the research regarding predictive factors of adolescent gang involvement is centered and focused around young boys (Esbensen et al., 2009).

Methodological Limitations

There have been some methodological limitations with studies done regarding predictive factors for adolescent gang affiliation. In research done on similarities and differences in risk factors for violent offending youth, the research was limited to using self-reports of peer's delinquency, rather than independent measures. This overestimates the importance of deviant peer associations in contributing to one own delinquency (Esbensen et al., 2009). This methodological limitation was also reported in other studies that it was limiting due to self-reporting of the adolescents (Koffman et al., 2009).

Other limitations found in other studies have been regarded as not having a diverse and well representative sample size. In a study done on the relationship with adults as predictors of substance abuse, gang involvement, and threats to safety among disadvantaged urban high-school adolescent, the researcher had difficulty representing a certain age group, such as juniors and seniors in high school (Koffman et al., 2009). Limitations appear to occur due to not being able to accurately claim a diverse and representative sample size as

well as limitations regarding single self-reports from adolescents (Koffman et al., 2009).

Conflicting Findings

Findings in studies regarding predictive factors for adolescents' involvement in gangs are all quite similar and have related data. Most of the research points to similar predictive factors and variables such as: the individual, the community, substance abuse, the parent's relationship, peer factors and a history of criminal and gang related activity. Research regarding parent's involvement minimizes problems on the individual level. The research showed that some positive adult relationships appeared to play a protective role in regards to delinquent behavior and gang involvement but all in different way to different degrees (Ryan et al., 2007).

There are however, mixed findings regarding school factors and how they are related to adolescent gang affiliation. Some research shows that a lack of bonding and attachment to school can predict higher rates of violence in adolescents (Esbensen et al., 2009). Most research does support that there is a relationship among academic failure or poor performance, lack of commitment and low bonding to school, and dropping out of school and becoming involved in youth violence and gang affiliation and delinquency (Esbensen et al., 2009).

One study however, notes that relationships with adults were much less important in explaining gang involvement than in explaining substance use

compared to other studies that argue it's an important factor that can be extremely positive in preventing gang affiliation among adolescents. It was also noted in a study that race/ethnicity, already using substances, and risk seeking propensities were all more important than relationships with adults when examining predictive factors of gang involvement (Ryan et al., 2007).

A study done regarding the differences of prevalence of gang involvement between immigrant adolescents and U.S. born adolescents showed that there wasn't much of a difference in gang involvement rates (Barrett & Kupermminc, 2013). However, there have been multiple findings showing that there is a significant correlation between discrimination stress and immigration status in that U.S. born Latino experience more negative repercussions of acculturation, particularly discrimination stress including lower self-esteem and increased problem behaviors (Barrett & Kupermminc, 2013).

Theoretical Conceptions

Self-control theory has guided past research, especially in a study examining the similarities and differences in risk factors to gang involvement. This theory was derived from Gottredson and Hirschi in 1990. Self-control theory says that children develop levels of self-control when they are about seven or eight, and that their levels of self-control remain stable in comparison for the rest of their lives. When children have low levels of self-control then they end up

being more prone to crime, and other criminal tendencies continue into later life (Esbensen et al., 2009).

There have been a number of tests of the perspective of self-control theory that have confirmed the association between low self-control and criminal activity (Esbensen et al., 2009). Much of the research done in this area has utilized the operationalization of self-control. It has been studied and theorized that adolescents who are impulsive and risk-takers are likely to engage in violent and deviant behaviors and find gangs and gang affiliation attractive (Esbensen et al., 2009).

Another theory used to explain gang involvement is social learning theory. Social learning theory suggests that learning is a cognitive process that takes places in a social context and can occur purely through observation or direct instruction, even in the absence of motor reproduction (Esbensen et al., 2009). It has been argued that criminal behavior is a consequence of social interactions and the learning behavior as well as rationalization or justifications for that behavior (Esbensen et al., 2009). Research has found that both gang membership and delinquency can be explained by social learning theory due to the fact that gang affiliation is often something that can happen among relatives and communities.

When doing research, it has been vital to understand that learning to define behavior as appropriate was and is a key component. An individual would not engage in specific behaviors if they had not learned to define it as acceptable

in the circumstances (Esbensen et al., 2009). Two measures included in the study are directly linked to this definitional aspect of learning theory: perceived guilt and neutralizations. The definitional scales assess the amount of guilt that the youth feel if he/she committed a variety of illegal acts and the extent to which the youth believe it is okay to lie, steal and hit people under circumstances. Youths who experience feelings of low guilt and make excuses for deviant behaviors would be more likely to carry out violent acts and to be involved with gangs than other youths, because they have more interpretations that are favorable to delinquency (Esbensen et al., 2009).

The theory of differential association is another theory that has been used to explain gang culture and involvement (Barrett & Kupeermminc, 2013).

Differential association is a theory developed by Edwin Sutherland. It proposes that through interaction with others, individuals learn the values, attitudes, techniques and motives for criminal behavior. This theory helps explain the practice of antisocial attitudes, norms and values within gangs as key factors in comprehending youth violence (Barrett & Kupeermminc, 2013). This theory can help researchers examine the causal relationship between violence and attitudes that foreshadow violence and how the group processes of gang affiliations influence them, and how this can change over time (Barrett & Kupeermminc, 2013).

Labeling theory would be a helpful theory by explaining the deviant behaviors that youth involve themselves in that lead to gang involvement.

Labeling theory can be found on the notion that we see ourselves as “through a looking glass” or to put more simply, that we see ourselves as we believe others see us. Labeling theory further holds that this self-as-seen through the looking glass of social significant others matters in how we will see ourselves and to how we will act and behave in the future (Thompson, 2014).

Labeling theory would be an important and helpful theory when researching and examining behaviors of youth who partake in gang involvement because it might provide a better picture and idea of how one’s views of one’s self or what one thinks others think of them effects how they partake or involve themselves in delinquent behaviors. However, labeling hasn’t been studied as a process that happens in interactions but studies have come to rely more on operationalization labeling as a post hoc phenomena, often operationalized by self-reports in which individuals report on the extent to which they identify with a particular label (Thompson, 2014).

Another theory that would be useful to guide the research regarding gang involvement would be rational choice theory. Rational choice theory also referred to, as decision theory is a framework for understanding and formally modeling social and economic behavior. The basic principal of rational choice theory is that aggregate social choice heavily results from the behavior of individual actors, each of whom is making their individual decision. Rational choice theory also assumes that an individual has a preference among the choice alternative that allows them to state which option they prefer (Dietrich & List, 2013).

Rational choice theory would give a better understanding as to why a person thinks they need to involve themselves in certain behaviors and how they come to the decisions that they do. It is assumed that a rational agent has beliefs and has to satisfy their desires in accordance with his or her beliefs. Based on this understanding, the agent's desire over possible worlds or fully specified outcomes, their fundamental preferences are unforced attitudes that are separate and do not respond to agents beliefs, which are cognitive attitudes (Dietrich & List, 2013). Understanding the preferences of a youth who is involving him or her self in criminal activity would be helpful to know to help combat whatever those preferences are and if it is a prevalent problem. However, rational choice theorists lack the conceptual resources for capturing the role played by reasons in rational decision-making (Dietrich & List, 2013).

Much of the research on gang involvement has been focused on similarities between gang members, focusing on race as well as immigrant versus non-immigrant status, relationships with adults as well as substance abuse. It would be helpful and beneficial to look at gang involvement from a view with all of these considerations in mind but also evaluating the mindset of the adolescent who involve themselves in gang relations. Studying and researching how the adolescent came to choose or has been forced to be part of the gang might give better insight.

There is a great deal of research identifying the risk factors that are associated with various forms of delinquent behaviors from adolescents that has

emerged (Esbensen et al., 2009). A majority of the risk factor that literature states has been applied to general delinquency and less so to gang activity (Esbensen et al., 2009). By focusing on specific questions related to predictive factors and their relation to gang involvement could give a more descriptive and specific insight onto the exact mindsets and factors that lead to gang involvement.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODS

Overview

This chapter provides a clear and thorough overview of the research project by explaining the study design, sampling techniques, data collection and instruments, and procedures used for the data obtained. A cross-sectional quantitative study design was used to gather information regarding master level social work student's beliefs of adolescent gang affiliation. This chapter also reviews the method used to ensure the protection of human subjects.

Study Design

The purpose of this study was to explore and evaluate the beliefs that graduate level social work students have regarding adolescent gang affiliation and the knowledge that they have regarding predictive factors of adolescent gang affiliation. This study also attempted to understand if the beliefs held by social work students will affect their willingness and readiness to work with gang involved population. It was predicted that a vast majority of respondents would not have sufficient knowledge and understanding of gang subculture.

The research design is a cross-sectional quantitative study that uses a survey given to the advanced year students in the Masters of Social Work Program at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB). Quantitative

data allows for a larger sample size, which facilitates better representation of social work students. Quantitative data also allows for greater control over the study. This method is the most effective in being able to account for a majority of social work student's attitudes, beliefs and knowledge regarding gang subculture. Methodological implications of this study include bounded responses of CSUSB students because the study does not allow for students to explain interpretation.

Limitations of this study include results only being applicable to social work graduate students at CSUSB. The results will not be able to account for all graduate students in a master of social work program. The research question is the following: What is the extent of beliefs that social work graduate students have regarding adolescent gang affiliation? It was hypothesized that students would have some knowledge, but not a substantial or significant amount to be able to work effectively with this population.

Sampling

This research study uses a purposive non-probability sampling method. The survey targets specific respondents that must meet certain criteria to determine their knowledge about a topic, which according to Grinnell and Unrau (2014) make it a purposive sampling method. Twenty-seven graduate students completed the online survey. The graduate students surveyed were in their advanced year in the master of social work program. Advanced year students are

the ideal sample since they will have the most extensive knowledge as of this moment regarding all subject matter taught in the graduate school of social work.

Data Collection and Instruments

Data were collected through the use of a self-administered online survey via the online survey development company, Survey Monkey. The data that was collected is the surveys that were completed by the graduate students in the social work program regarding their perceptions and beliefs of adolescent gang affiliation. The survey included questions regarding respondent's demographic characteristics, as well as direct and specific questions examining the respondent's beliefs of adolescent gang affiliation. There were five questions regarding respondent's demographic information and thirty statements that respondents ranked on a Likert scale regarding their beliefs about adolescent gang affiliation (Appendix A).

The dependent variable was the extent of beliefs that advanced year graduate students hold regarding adolescent gang affiliation. The independent variables include the respondent's demographic characteristics, such as: gender, age, ethnic background, their experience working with gang population, their past training to work with the gang population and if they are willing to work with gang members. Gender and ethnic background were measured nominally where respondents marked the box that was most fitting. Age was measured at an interval level where participants indicated their age. Experience, training, and

willingness were also all measured at a nominal level, the respondents either marked the appropriate box or filled in their specific response. The thirty statements regarding beliefs about gang affiliation were rated on a Likert scale by the respondent and ranged from strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, and strongly disagree. This was an ordinal level of measurement.

Several of the questions for this survey were adapted using survey questions from Edward Yang's graduate thesis, "Master of Social Work Student's Knowledge, Perceptions, and Attitudes Toward the Gang Population" (1997). Additionally, the researcher added several questions to address the issue of adolescent gang affiliation. Given that the survey is a combination of two researchers it has face validity, since the survey measures what it should. However, because the survey is a combination of two researchers, the degree of reliability is unknown. Strengths regarding the method of survey distribution online were that it was a convenient method for participants to complete the survey, and it guaranteed anonymity.

Procedures

The data was gathered from the target population of this research, which was the advanced year, graduate level social work students attending California State University, San Bernardino. Written permission was given by the Director of the school of social work to distribute and send surveys to students' school email address. The survey was estimated to take approximately fifteen minutes for the

respondents to complete. Respondents had the convenience to take the survey in any environment, as they were able to access it online. The data was gathered by the researcher and kept in a password protected and encrypted file.

Protection of Human Subjects

To protect anonymity of participants, no personal identifying information was collected. Data collection from the surveys was kept on a flash drive that was kept in a secure and confidential location and which was password protected and encrypted. Once the study was complete, all data was erased. An informed consent was provided to all participants prior to participating in the study. The informed consent stated what the purpose of the study was and that participation was voluntary. Participants had to check a box on the survey indicating that they were giving their consent to participate in the study.

Data Analysis

For the purpose of this study, a quantitative analysis method was utilized in order to assess for student's beliefs about gang affiliation. SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) version 23 was used to analyze the data. Quantitative analysis methods were used to determine whether beliefs about gang affiliation differed by: gender, age, ethnic background, and whether or not the individual had experience with gangs.

Summary

This chapter provided an overview of the procedures that were taken and used to complete the research study. The method design that was used during the research study was briefly described, as well as a summary of the sampling strategy used. Furthermore, data collection and instruments, procedures, protection of human subjects and data analysis were also discussed in this chapter. This research project was done to have a better understanding on the beliefs that graduate level social work students have regarding adolescent gang affiliation.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS

Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the perceptions and attitudes that social work students have regarding the predictive factors of adolescent gang affiliation. SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) version 23 was used to analyze the data. This chapter presents the results of data gathered and analyzed. First, the demographic characteristics of the study sample will be discussed. Next, the researcher presents the attitudes and perceptions that social work students have about the predictive factors of adolescent gang affiliation.

Descriptive Statistics

Table 1 presents the demographic characteristics of the study sample. The modal response for the sample age was 25-34. There was a larger portion of participants who were women (85.2%). The sample make-up was approximately half Latino/Hispanic (51.85%), Caucasian (18.52%), Black/African-American (25.93%), Asian (7.41%) and those who identified as Other (3.7%). Seventy point thirty-seven percent of participants had no experience working with gang involved population and 77.78% of participants had received no prior training to working with the gang involved population.

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics

	N (%)
<i>Age</i>	
18 – 24	7 (25.93%)
25 – 34	17(62.96%)
35 – 44	2(7.41%)
45 – 54	1(3.70%)
55 – 64	0(0%)
65 – 74	0(0%)
75 or older	0(0%)
<i>Sex</i>	
Unknown	2(7.4%)
Male	2(7.4%)
Female	23(85.2%)
<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>	
White/Caucasian	5(18.52%)
Black/African-American	7(25.93%)
Asian	2(7.41%)
Latino/Hispanic	14(51.85%)
Other	1(3.70%)
<i>Experience</i>	
Yes	8(29.63%)
No	19(70.37%)

Table 1 continued	
<i>Training</i>	
Yes	6(22.22%)
No	21(77.78%)

Findings

The survey was broken into four categories when analyzing results: causes, culture, social services with gangs, and perceptions. A summary of the frequency distribution of participant responses to the items corresponding to the previously mentioned four categories are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Survey Findings

	Agree N(%)	Disagree N(%)	Neutral N(%)
Causes			
<u>Item</u>			
Adolescents are more likely to join a gang than an adult is.	24(88.89%)	1(3.70%)	2(7.40%)
Young males are more likely to be involved in gangs than young females.	17(62.97%)	7(25.92%)	3(11.11%)
Being part of a gang runs in the family.	16(59.26%)	3(11.11%)	8(29.63%)
Positive relationships with parents and teachers can deter an adolescent from gang affiliation.	24(88.88%)	1(3.70%)	2(7.41%)

Table 2 continued	Agree N(%)	Disagree N(%)	Neutral N(%)
Most youth involved in gang activity come from low socioeconomic backgrounds.	19(70.37%)	4(14.81%)	4(14.81%)
Youth who are recent immigrants are more likely to become involved in gang activity.	4(14.81%)	14(51.85%)	9(33.34%)
Gang Culture			
<u>Item</u>			
Gang involvement only occurs in cities.	1(3.70%)	23(85.18%)	3(11.11%)
Gangs are very organized groups.	16(59.26%)	5(18.52%)	6(22.22%)
A person can tell that a youth is in a gang member by his/her attire.	6(22.22%)	13(48.15%)	8(29.63%)
Multi-ethnic gangs do not exist.	1(3.70%)	20(74.07%)	6(22.22%)
Drugs and alcohol are a major aspect of the gang subculture.	26(96.29%)	0(0.00%)	1(3.70%)
Social Services with Gangs			
<u>Item</u>			
There is a sufficient amount of programs designed to take preventative measures for adolescents who are at risk of gang affiliation.	1(3.70%)	22(81.48%)	4(14.81%)
There is a sufficient amount of programs designed to take reactive measures for adolescents who are in gangs or getting out of gangs.	6(22.22%)	17(62.96%)	4(14.81%)
Social workers can build better rapport with gang members than can police officers.	21(77.78%)	0(0.00%)	6(22.22%)
Corrections, such as probation and prison, are the best way to deal with gangs.	0(0.00%)	21(77.78%)	6(22.22%)

Table 2 continued	Agree N(%)	Disagree N(%)	Neutral N(%)
Most of people who work with the gang populations are MSWs.	0(0.00%)	17(62.96%)	10(37.04%)
Perceptions			
Item			
There is more violence in adolescents who are in gangs, than other deviant non-gang member youths.	18(66.67%)	3(11.11%)	6(22.22%)
Adolescent gang involvement is decreasing.	0(0.00%)	15(55.55%)	12(44.44%)
Adolescents are able to grow closer to their family when they are in a gang.	1(3.85%)	19(73.08%)	6(23.08%)
Gang affiliation amongst adolescents is more of a community problem than a school problem.	11(40.74%)	12(44.45%)	4(14.81%)
Adolescents seek out gang membership.	5(18.51%)	11(40.74%)	1(40.74%)
Gang membership for an adolescent is usually short term.	0(0.00%)	23(85.19%)	4(14.81%)
Adolescent gang involvement is more prevalent in minority communities.	22(81.48%)	0(0.00%)	5(18.52%)
Getting out of a Black gang is easier than getting out of a Hispanic gang.	1(3.70%)	15(55.55%)	11(40.74%)
Once an adolescent has become a gang member, it is impossible to get him/her out of the gang.	2(7.41%)	21(77.78%)	4(14.81%)
I would like more graduate courses that cover information about gangs and how to work with them.	24(92.31%)	2(7.7%)	0(0.00%)

Table 2 continued	Agree N(%)	Disagree N(%)	Neutral N(%)
All gang members are dangerous	4(14.81%)	19(70.37%)	4(14.81%)
Gang violence in the media has been greatly exaggerated.	8(29.63%)	7(25.93%)	12(44.44%)
Gang prevention is the key to controlling gang activity.	16(59.26%)	5(18.52%)	6(22.22%)
Trying adolescents as adults and increasing confinement times are effective ways of dealing with adolescents involved in gangs.	2(7.41%)	21(77.78%)	4(14.81%)

The first category surveyed was the attitudes and perceptions that social work students have of the causes for adolescents being involved in gang affiliation. Eighty-eight point eighty-nine percent of those surveyed believed that adolescents are more likely to join a gang than an adult is. Sixty-two point ninety-seven percent believed that young males are more likely to be involved in gangs than young females. Fifty-nine point twenty-six percent of those surveyed believed that being part of a gang runs in the family. Eighty-eight point eighty-eight percent believed that positive relationships with parents and teachers can deter an adolescent away from gang affiliation and 51.58% disagreed that youth who are recent immigrants are more likely to become involved in gang activity.

The next category surveyed the beliefs that social work students have about the culture of adolescent gang affiliation. It was found that 85.18% of students disagreed that gang involvement only occurs in cities. Fifty-nine point

twenty-six percent of students agree that gangs are very organized groups. Forty-eight point fifteen percent disagreed that a person can tell that a youth is in a gang based off of his/her attire. Seventy-four point zero seven percent disagreed that multiethnic gangs do not exist and 96.29% believed that drugs and alcohol are a major aspect of the gang subculture.

The third category surveyed the attitudes social work students have regarding social services and their relationship with the gang population. Eighty-one point forty-eight percent disagree that there is a sufficient amount of programs designed to take preventative measures for adolescents who are at risk of gang affiliation. Sixty-two point ninety-six percent of students also disagreed that there is sufficient amount of programs designed to take reactive measures for adolescents who are in gangs or getting out of gangs. Seventy-seventy point seventy-eight percent believe that social workers can build a better rapport with gang members than police officers can. Seventy-seventy point seventy-eight percent of students disagree that corrections, such as probation and prisons, are the best way to deal with gangs. Sixty-two point ninety-six percent of students also disagreed that most of the people who work with the gang-involved population are MSW's.

The fourth category surveyed the perceptions that students had about those involved with the gang population. Twenty-two point twenty-two percent of those surveyed felt neutral that there is more violence amongst adolescents who are in gangs than in other deviant non-gang member youth groups. Fifty-five

point fifty-five percent of students disagreed that adolescent gang involvement is decreasing. Seventy-three point eight percent of students disagreed that adolescents are able to grow closer to their family while they are in a gang. Forty-four point forty-five percent disagreed that gang affiliation amongst adolescents is more of a community problem than a school problem. Forty point seventy-four percent of students disagreed that adolescents seek out gang memberships, and 40.74% of those surveyed also responded neutral to the same question. Eighty-five point nineteen percent of those surveyed disagreed that adolescent gang affiliation is short term. Eighty-one point forty-eight percent agreed that adolescent gang involvement is more prevalent in minority communities. Fifty-five point fifty-five percent of those surveyed disagreed that it was easier to get out of a Black gang than it was to get out of a Hispanic gang. Seventy-seven point seventy-eight percent disagree that once an adolescent has become a gang member it is impossible for him/her to get out of the gang. Ninety-two point thirty eight percent of those surveyed agreed that they would like more graduate courses that cover the gang population and how to work with those involved. Seventy point thirty-seven percent of students survey disagreed that all gang members are dangerous. Forty-four point forty-eight percent of those surveyed felt neutral about the statement that gang violence in the media has been greatly exaggerated. Fifty-nine point twenty-six agreed that gang prevention is the key to controlling gang activity and 77.78% disagreed that trying adolescents as adults

and increasing confinement times are effective ways of dealing with adolescents involved in gangs.

Summary

In this chapter, the researcher used descriptive quantitative analysis approach to analyze the participants' responses. The quantitative data used in this study included a frequency distribution. The findings in this study of demographic characteristics of the participants indicated an underrepresentation of male master of social work students. Social work students ranged from 18-54 years of age and had little experience and training with the gang population. According to the participant's responses the findings indicated that social work students have a shared understanding of attitudes and beliefs regarding what the predictive factors are for adolescent gang affiliation. The findings also showed that social work students share an understanding of the importance of social workers working with gang involved adolescents.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION

Introduction

This chapter discusses the study findings and contextualizes it within the current relevant literature. A discussion on the impact of the study findings on social work values is also presented here. Furthermore, this chapter addresses the impact that the findings of this study could have on the education for master level social work students. This chapter also explores the implications of the results, discusses and identifies limitations of the study, and suggests recommendations for social work practice, policy, and research.

Discussion of the Findings

This study sought to examine the perceptions and attitudes toward the adolescent gang population among advanced year master of social work students at California State University, San Bernardino; as well as surveying what their knowledge is of social work and services involvement the adolescent gang population. This researcher hypothesized that formal education for MSW students does not do an effective and sufficient job in teaching about predictive factors of gang involvement, as well as not doing a sufficient job in teaching about interventions and culture of gang involvement as it does about other social issues such as substance abuse, child welfare, and mental health. This

researcher also hypothesized that not enough information is given or offered by the master of social work program about to this population to prepare social work students to work with gang affiliated adolescents.

There were certain findings that are noteworthy to discuss regarding the participant's responses. The first major finding was that the participants reported that a majority of them have not had any experience or training with individuals with gang affiliations and most also reported that they haven't received training. This is an expected finding as we have learned from the research that those who work with the population are primarily professionals in law enforcement (Esbensen et al., 2013). As mentioned earlier, there have been many programs designed for prevention and intervention for adolescent gang affiliation, but few have been seen promising, let alone effective (Esbensen et al., 2013). Given that these programs attempt to teach adolescents about the effects of crime, cultural diversity, conflict resolution skills, meeting basic needs, responsibility, and gang setting it would make more sense to have trained social workers whose education is geared to learning about the developmental process, cultural humility and goal setting with clients.

There were also responses from the participants regarding their attitudes and perceptions of the causes for adolescent gang involvement gangs that are worthy of discussing. Based off the results in this study, it was found that social work students do understand or are able to assume what the predictive factors of gang affiliation are. It's significant to note that 88.88% of participants believed

that positive relationships with parents and teachers could deter an adolescent away from gang affiliation. This factor in adolescent's lives is very much true and is supported in most of the literature that a positive relationship with an adult can deter an adolescent from deviant behavior (Ryan, Miller-Loessi, & Nieri, 2007). It has been found in previous research studies that warm parental support and encouragement protect against adolescent gang activity (Ryan et al., 2007). In the same study it showed that parent-initiated monitoring, in the sense of parent's tracking and restriction of deviant behaviors also protected against gang activity and deviant behaviors (Ryan et al., 2007).

Understanding the effects that positive adult relationships have on adolescents is also important to note given that social workers naturally promote familial and community relationships with their clients. It is also important to note that positive relationships could be developed with a social worker more organically than someone in law enforcement. It is arguably useful and helpful when adolescents develop positive relationships with law enforcement, but it can also be argued that it is much more likely for adolescents to form more positive relationships with adults they have not been intimidated by their entire life or professionals they may have grown up learning to be scared off. It may also be argued that adolescents would feel that they are betraying those in their community by forming strong relationships with law enforcement as opposed to forming strong relationships with a social worker.

The next noteworthy finding is the participants' responses about their attitudes and perceptions regarding gang culture. Again, the participants' responses proved that advanced year social work students have a great deal of understanding of the subculture of gangs. Most of the students surveyed agreed that gang involvement doesn't only happen in cities and they agreed that gangs are very organized groups.

It is also important to note the participants' responses regarding their perceptions and attitudes of social services and those involved with the gang population. A majority of students do agree that there are not enough preventative and reactive measures and programs to combat the issue of adolescent gang affiliation. Most of those surveyed also believed that social workers could do a better job than police officers in building better rapport with adolescents involved in gang affiliation. Based on the responses from the participants, it is evident that the social work students surveyed believed in more rehabilitative methods of dealing with offenders and that programs should be carried out by social workers.

The next interesting finding was in the section surveying the participants regarding the perceptions they had about adolescents involved with the gang population. For the most part, the participants had a general understanding of those who are involved in gangs. However, participants also overwhelmingly disagreed that adolescent gang involvement is short-term, which the research proves otherwise. A majority of the participants also responded in agreement of

having positive outlooks about those involved with gangs. The majority of participants also responded in agreement with wanting more graduate courses taught related to the gang affiliated populations. This category really proved the positive outlook that social work students have on this population as well as their interest in the subject.

Recommendations for Social Work Practice, Policy and Research

It is recommended for social work policy and practice that social work professionals really involve themselves on a macro and micro level in working with this population. According to the research, there has been very little success with current intervention and prevention programs (Esbensen et al., 2013). It is recommended that social workers develop programs in collaboration with law enforcement to more effectively deter adolescents from becoming involved with gangs. It is also recommended that more emphasis be given to a preventative method instead of waiting to implement reactive measures. It is also suggested as a potential change at the policy level, that punishment laws for adolescents be refined to reduce any juvenile jail time for adolescents who are convicted. Research overwhelmingly shows that delinquent adolescents thrive when a more rehabilitative approach is taken and do worse in a punitive juvenile justice system (Jenson & Howard, 1998). According to a 1998 study, rates of adolescent delinquency significantly decreased after a rehabilitative approach was used (Jenson & Howard, 1998).

Though this study makes a contribution at shedding light on the attitudes that social work students have about gang affiliated adolescents, the study limitations should be noted. For future research, it is definitely recommended that a larger sample size is collected to better represent more diversity in social work students, such as being able to obtain more male participants compared to the two that were surveyed in this study. To achieve this it is recommended that this survey be distributed to other graduate social work programs. Given the abilities social workers have, it is important to analyze and understand their attitudes as well as misconceptions about those involved with the gang population. It is also relevant for future researchers to analyze the attitudes and perceptions of students who have had more experience with those involved with adolescent involved with gang affiliation. Further distributing the survey to other graduate social work programs could also aim to do this. Additionally, it is recommended that future researchers invest in developing a tool that can better analyze social workers' perceptions of the current intervention and prevention programs.

Additionally, future research should aim to assess the attitudes and ideas that social work students would have about treatments and programs that they believe would be effective when working with gang affiliated youth. This would help to gain a better understanding of what future social workers believe the right type of prevention or intervention would be. This current study assessed for one question regarding punishment but it would be interesting to further elaborate in this area. It would also be useful for future researcher to use a longer timeframe

to increase the hope of reaching out to more participants. Lastly, there is limited research about the perceptions of those working with this population, such as law enforcement personnel. Future research can test the perceptions and attitudes that law enforcement personnel have to better understand their views and assess for differences in views of gang affiliated youth between the two fields (e.g. social work and law enforcement).

Conclusions

The purpose of this study was to gain an understanding of the perceptions, attitudes and knowledge that graduate level advanced year social work students have about the predictive factors of adolescent gang affiliation. Although there were few statistically significant findings in the study, the students for the most part had positive attitudes and perceptions regarding those involved with gang affiliation. The participants for the most part also agreed with factual statements regarding actual predictive factors of gang affiliation. The participants also overwhelmingly all agreed on a more rehabilitative approach when working with youth involved in gang affiliation as opposed to punitive approaches.

APPENDIX A
QUESTIONNAIRE

Questionnaire

Please mark the following:

1. What is your gender? _____

2. Age:

- ☐ 18 – 24
- ☐ 25 – 34
- ☐ 35 – 44
- ☐ 45 – 54
- ☐ 55 – 64
- ☐ 65 – 74
- ☐ 75 or older

3. Ethnic Background:

- ☐ White/Caucasian
- ☐ Black/African-American
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Latino/Hispanic
- ☐ Other (Specify) _____

4. Do you have any prior experience working with the gang population?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes:

a) Please explain

5. Have you received any training to work with the gang population?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes:

a.) Where?

b.) From whom?

- ☐ Experienced social workers
- ☐ Probation Department
- ☐ Law Enforcement
- ☐ Others (Specify) _____

6. Adolescents are more likely to join a gang than an adult is.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

7. Young males are more likely to be involved in gangs than young females.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

8. There is more violence in adolescents who are in gangs, than other deviant non-gang member youths.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

9. There are a sufficient amount of programs designed to take preventative measures for adolescents who are at risk of gang affiliation.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

10. There are a sufficient amount of programs designed to take reactive measures for adolescents who are in gangs or getting out of gangs.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

11. Adolescent gang involvement is decreasing.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

12. Being part of a gang runs in the family.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

13. Adolescents are able to grow closer to their family when they are in a gang.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

14. Gang affiliation amongst adolescents is more of a community problem than a school problem.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

15. Adolescents seek out gang membership.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

16. Gang membership for an adolescent is usually short term.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

17. Adolescent gang involvement is more prevalent in minority communities.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

18. Gang involvement only occurs in cities.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

19. Gangs are very organized groups.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

20. Positive relationships with parents and teachers can deter an adolescent from gang affiliation.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

21. One can tell that a youth is a gang member by his/her attire.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

22. Getting out of a Black gang is easier than getting out of a Hispanic gang.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

23. Multi-ethnic gangs do not exist.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

24. Drugs and alcohol are major aspects of the gang subculture.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

25. Once a youth has become a gang member, it is impossible to get him/her out of the gang.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

26. I would like more graduate courses that cover information about gangs and how to work with them.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

27. Social workers can build better rapport with gang members than can police officers.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

28. Most youth involved in gang activity come from low socioeconomic backgrounds.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

29. All gang members are dangerous.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

30. Gang violence in the media has been greatly exaggerated.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

31. Gang prevention is the key to controlling gang activity.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

32. Corrections, such as probation and prison, are the best way to deal with gangs.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

33. Trying adolescents as adults and increasing confinement time are effective ways of dealing with adolescents involved in gangs.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

34. Most of people who work with the gang populations are MSWs.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

35. Youth who are recent immigrants are more likely to become involved in gang activity.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

Adapted by Caroline McLoughlin from
Yang, E. Y. (1997). *Master of social work students' knowledge, perceptions, and attitudes toward the gang population* (Order No. 1387675). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Full Text: The Humanities and Social Sciences Collection. (304464738). Retrieved from <http://search.proquest.com/docview/304464738?accountid=10359>

APPENDIX B
INFORMED CONSENT

Celebrating Our Past



California State University, San Bernardino
Social Work Institutional Review Board Sub-Committee
APPROVED 2/2/2017 VOID AFTER 2/1/2017
IRB# SW1639 CHAIR [Signature]

Transforming Our Future

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

INFORMED CONSENT

The study in which you are asked to participate is designated to explore graduate social work students' beliefs regarding adolescent gang affiliation and the extent to which graduate social work students are aware of the predictive factors regarding adolescent gang affiliation. This is a graduate research project conducted by Caroline McLoughlin, under the supervision of Dr. Erica Lizano, Lecturer at the California State University, San Bernardino. This study has been approved by the School of Social Work's Sub-Committee of the California State University, San Bernardino Institutional Review Board.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this research study is to explore and evaluate graduate social work students' beliefs regarding adolescent gang affiliation.

DESCRIPTION: You were selected to participate in this study because you are currently enrolled as a social work student. In this study you will be asked to complete survey questions about your beliefs regarding predictive factors of adolescent gang affiliation.

PARTICIPATION: This survey is completely anonymous and any information that is obtained within this study will remain confidential. If you decide to no longer participate, you may withdraw or discontinue your participation from this study at any time without any consequences.

CONFIDENTIALITY: Please note that your responses will remain anonymous. Data will be reported in group form only.

DURATION: If you decided to participate in this study, you will be given a 35 question survey. The survey should take no more than fifteen minutes to complete.

RISK AND BENEFITS: No anticipated harm will emerge as a consequence of this study. There will not be any direct benefits to the participants. Participation in this study may increase the awareness for the need to understand the predictive factors of adolescent gang involvement and how social workers can help prevent and intervene with this problem.

CONTACT: If you have any questions about this survey, you may contact Dr. Erica Lizano at (909) 537-5584.

RESULTS: Results of the study can be obtained by contacting the Pfau Library at CSUSB.

5500 UNIVERSITY PARKWAY, SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92407-2393

The California State University • Bakersfield • Channel Islands • Chico • Dominguez Hills • East Bay • Fresno • Fullerton • Humboldt • Long Beach • Los Angeles
Maritime Academy • Monterey Bay • Northridge • Pomona • Sacramento • San Bernardino • San Diego • San Francisco • San Jose • San Luis Obispo • San Marcos • Sonoma • Stanislaus

CONFIRMATION STATEMENT: This is to certify that I have read and understand the information above, and decide to participate in this study.

IF I CHECK THE BOX BELOW, I HAVE READ THE INFORMATION BELOW AND AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IN YOUR STUDY.

APPENDIX C
DEBRIEFING STATEMENT

Debriefing Statement

The survey you have just completed was designed to determine social work students' beliefs of the predictive factors of adolescent gang affiliation. If you are interested in the results of this study, you can obtain a copy of the results at California University, San Bernardino Pfau library or on their website at <http://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/> once the study has been completed in August, 2016. I ask that you do not discuss this survey with anyone you may know participating in this study.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns due to participating in this study, please contact Dr. Erica Lizano at (909) 537- 5584 or elizano@csusb.edu.

I would like to thank you for your time and participation for completing this survey.

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